(*b*) the dates of appointment or promotion of such officers to their present posts ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar : (*a*) and (*b*) Please see statement appended. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan: Has the Government noted that none from among the un-represented communities are in the list?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: The list is there.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan: Has the Government noted in the list the fact that there is none from the un-represented communities ?

Mr K. P. Kannan Nayar: May I know what is meant by an un-represented community ?

Mr. K. R Viswambharan: Unrepresented communities are communities who are not represented in the service properly.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: There are many from those communities who are not in the list.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim: The hon'ble member's question was whether Government have noted that there was not even a single person from among the unrepresented community in the list here.

HUNGER STRIKE—CENTRAL JAIL.

100. Mr. M. K. Devassy: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether there was any hunger-strike among the prisoners of the Central Jail in the years, 1111, 1112 and 1113 ;

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*i*) the number of persons who struck;
(*ii*) the duration of the strike ;
(*iii*) the cause of the strike ;
(*iv*) the mode in which it was ended ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar : (*a*) Yes. On two occasions. One in 1111 and the other in 1113.

(*b*) (*i*) Three in 1111 and one in 1113.

(*ii*) In 1111 one prisoner fasted for two days, another for 3 days and the 3rd for 4 days.

In 1113, the prisoner fasted from the evening of 11th Edavam 1113 till the next evening.

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(*iii*) As a protest against the award of punishment for commission of prison offences. In 1111, the 3 prisoners were awarded stripes and bar-fetters for assaulting a convict officer and in 1113 the prisoner concerned was awarded a forfeiture of his remission for 3 days for disobedience of orders.

(*iv*) On both occasions the prisoners realising the folly of their action, broke their fast.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan: Are some of these persons given castor oil as a punishment? (*Laughter*).

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: Probably as a purgative.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni: In the answer, the expression used is 'realising the folly of their action'. How do the Government know that they have realised their folly? Is it because the prisoners who struck broke their fast themselves, that such an inference is drawn?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: They themselves felt it and probably they might have expressed it.

Dr. A. R. Menon: Did the authorities make any enquiry before they awarded stripes? The charge here is that some 3 prisoners assaulted a convict officer and they were awarded stripes and bar-fetters. I think an enquiry might have been held before awarding punishment. If so, by whom?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: I cannot say by whom.

Dr. A. R. Menon: Will the Government be pleased to enquire of the Jail authorities and ascertain if they made enquiries, because stripe is a very serious punishment?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan: Is there not a case of branding brought to the notice of Government?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: Not as punishment, but as treatment.

Mr. President: All the officers concerned have been severely punished. Orders have already been issued.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni: What is meant by bar-fetters?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: കാലിൽ ചങ്ങലയിടൽ.

Dr. A. R. Menon: Is there any rule that before such stripes are awarded they should get the sanction of the Inspector-General of Prisons or can the Superintendent himself award?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: The Superintendent can himself award.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni: Has there been cases before 1111 of fasting as protest against the punishment given ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: I want notice.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni: Is it not usual to have fasts as protests against certain things which they cannot relish ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: Not usual.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni: So unless there is in the assumption of the person that he has not been properly dealt with and it is to show that as a matter of protest that they fast ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: That need not necessarily follow.

NEWSPAPERS—LICENSE FEES—LEVYING OF.

101. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of applications received by them in 1113 for licenses under the Newspapers Act;

(*b*) (*i*) who were such applicants;

(*ii*) the license fee fixed by the Government in each case?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: (*a*) 14.

(*b*) (*i*) *and* (*ii*). A statement containing the information is appended. (*Vide Appendix II*).

Mr. V. J. Mathai: Why a sum of Rs. 250 is collected from the "M. L. C." and "Theeppori" while only Rs. 10 and below is collected from other papers?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: From an enquiry it was found that the political tendencies and the antecedents of the editor were not quite satisfactory. That is the opinion the Government have from the reports submitted by the District Magistrate and the Police Commissioner. So the Government thought a higher fee should be levied from them.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: Is it a fact that it was on the report of the Officers concerned that these different scales were introduced ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: Yes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: Have they stated in their reports that heavy license fees should be received from certain papers ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: It is on the information contained in these reports that Government levy license fees.

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